(a) whether it is a fact that a Chief Commissioner has been appointed under the provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act, 1955;

(b) what steps have been taken under Section 58, 59 and 63 of said Act, State-wise;

(c) whether any annual report of the Chief Commissioner has been placed before Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the provisions in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 Act, the Chief Commissioner shall prepare, each financial year, and annual report giving a full account of his activities during the previous financial year and forward a copy thereof to the Central Government and the Central Government shall cause the annual report to be laid before each House of Parliament, along with the recommendations explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendation made in the Annual Report in so far as they relate to the Central Government and the reasons for non-acceptance, if any, of any such recommendation or part. The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has submitted his annual report for the period from September, 98 to March, 99 in January, 2000. The Chief Commissioner has taken several steps under Section 58, 59 and 63 of the said Act, which have been reflected in his Annual Report. Steps have been taken to lay the Annual Report of the Chief Commissioner along with the action taken report of the Central Government on the recommendation made in the Annual Report, before the Table of House.

Scheme to Liberate and Rehabilitate Scavengers

1145. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Government to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and their dependents from the inhuman occupation of carrying night-soil on their head have fallen flat, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 14th February, 2000;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) what amount was allocated by her Ministry during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in this regard;

(d) whether this matter was deliberated upon in the Conference of Social Welfare Secretaries of the States held recently in New Delhi; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The allocations under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation (R.E.)
1997-98	90.00
1998-99	20.00
1999-2000	70.00

(d) The strategies for implementing new programmes for liberation of Scavengers were discussed in detail during the conference. Targets were also given to the States/UTs to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers where scavenging is prevalent.

(e) The Scheme already provides for financial assistance towards liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers in alternative and dignified occupation through viable projects. The Ministry has also addressed the States/UTs where scavenging is prevalent, to also adopt the concept of Sanitary Marts on the basis of the West Bengal Model to accelerate the liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers.

Elderly people benefited by various Schemes

1146. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which have been introduced in the country for the benefit of the elderly people during 1999;